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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/927,696

Examiner

Donald Underwood

Applicant(s)

STOKKELAND, CURTIS

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 01/08/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12,13,16 and 17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08/10/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Applicant's amendment filed 01/08/05 appears incomplete in that the page containing the latter part of claim 12 and claim 13 is missing. Therefore this amendment has not been entered. However claim 12 as filed on 05/07/04 has been amended to delete line 25 which is a duplicate of line 24, claim 13 as filed 05/07/04 is allowable and claims 16 and 17 as filed on 01/08/05 are allowable. These claims are presented below and are being allowed. Note claims 13 and 14 are canceled as instructed by applicant in his amendment filed 01/08/05.

12. (currently amended) A upstanding hook attachment device for attachment between a front end loader and bucket wherein said loader has arms which are powered by the loader to various positions with arm engagement means at the outer ends of the arms;

said upstanding hook attachment device comprising an elongated upstanding hook frame having an upper and lower end, a plurality of hooks each having downward pointed front ends and rearward portions pivotally mounted to the upper end of the hook frame, hydraulic means connected between the hooks and the hook frame to power the pivotal movement of the hooks relative to the hook frame, engagement means along the rearward portion of the hook frame to inter engage with the engagement means on the arms of the loader to lock the hook frame to the arms of the loader;

said bucket having an open front and a rearward face with engagement means on the rear face of the bucket ;

said hook frame having inter engagement means on its front face to engage the engagement means on the rear face of the bucket to lock the bucket to the hook frame, while the hook frame, in turn, is locked to the arms of the loader, whereby the bucket may be used with the hooks on the hook frame while the hook frame and bucket are mounted to the arms of the loader; and

wherein said bucket engagement means are engagable with the loader engagement means for directly mounting the bucket to the loader, in lieu of the hook frame;

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said hydraulic means comprising hydraulic piston and cylinders mounted between the hooks and the hook frame to power the pivotal movement of the hooks on the hook frame, said hook frame having hydraulic cable lines extending from the loader to cylinders on the hook frame, said engagement means on said loader having a rigid detachable connection with said hook frame with a pivotal connection to the arms of the loader;

a pair of pivoting channels pivotal connected together at their ends with one of said channels mounted on the hook frame, said channels receiving said cable lines along their length with succeeding portions [on the hook frame, said channels receiving said cable lines along their length with succeeding portions] mounted to each channel with said cables having an intermediate portion between their channel portions adjacent the pivotal connection of the channels and adjacent the pivotal connection of the hook frame to the engagement means on the loader, whereby the channels and channel portions of the cable may pivot toward and away from one another when the engagement means on the loader pivots toward and away from the arms of the loader, said pivoting channels having a roller at its pivot connection for the intermediate portion of the cables to roll about thereon.

13. *(previously presented)* An elbow cable guide mechanism for guiding the movement of an intermediate portion of a elongated cable when outer opposing end portions of the cable are being moved toward and away from one another about the intermediate portion, said guide mechanism comprising a pair of elongated channels having remote ends pivotally connected together to place the channels in end to end relation along their length, said channels being adapted to receive the intermediate portion of the cable and retain one portion of the intermediate portion of the cable in one channel and a succeeding portion of the intermediate portion of the cable in the other channel with a connecting portion between the one portion and the succeeding portion extending about the pivotal connection of the channels to enable the intermediate portion of the cable to be guided in a definite pivoting movement pattern when the outer end portions of the cable move toward and away from one another, a roller rotatably mounted to the pivotal connection between the channels for the connecting portion of the intermediate portion of the cable to roll on when the channels and remote ends of the cable move toward and away from one another about the pivotal connection.

Cancel Claims 14 and 15.

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16.(new) A hook attachment apparatus comprising an elongated upright rectangular hook frame having a plurality of hooks pivotally mounted thereon for use in connection with a front end loader or for use in connection with a front end loader and a bucket;

and wherein said front end loader has arms at its forward end with front attachment means at the front of the arms with said front attachment means comprising a forward pair of downward engaging attachment pins and a horizontal forward and upward projecting plate extending laterally across the front of the loader attachment means above the pair of downward engaging attachment pins;

and wherein said bucket has a pair of rear pin receiving eyelet attachment means on a rearward face portion of the bucket with a rearward and downward extending plate extending laterally across the rear face of the bucket;

said rectangular upright hook frame having an upper and lower end, said plurality of hooks having rearward ends pivotally mounted beside one another laterally parallel to one another along the upper end of the hook frame and extending forward with the forward ends forming forward and downward extending hooks;

said hook frame having a front and rear face;

a rear pair of eyelet pin receiving means on the lower rear face of the hook frame to detachably receive the front pair of pin attachment means on the arms of the loader, said hook frame having a rear complementary laterally and horizontally extending plate across the rear face of the hook frame projecting rearward and downward to frontally receive, in complementary relation, said horizontal front plate of said arms of said loader, to thereby detachably mount the hook frame to the front end loader, whereby the hook frame with the hooks may be used with the front end loader;

said hook frame having a horizontal and upward projecting plate on its front face to frontally and detachably engage beneath the horizontal rearward and downward extending plate on the rear face of the bucket, said hook frame having a front pair of downward engaging attachment pins on its front face to detachably engage the rear pin receiving eyelets on rear of the bucket to detachably mount the bucket to the front of the hook frame, whereby the hook frame and hooks thereon may be used alone on the front end loader with the bucket detached or the hook frame and hooks thereon may also be used with the front end loader with the bucket attached.

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17. (new) A hook frame according to Claim 16, wherein the front pair of attachment pins each have a turnable handle to slidably and detachably engage the attachment pins to the bucket.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald Underwood whose telephone number is 703-308-1112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D Lillis, can be reached on 703-308-2438. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Donald Underwood 02/10/09
Donald Underwood
Primary Examiner
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